Research Notes

Research Overview:

The earliest records of Edward Whalen's life point to instability rather than continuity. Within the first years after his birth, the family experienced repeated loss, documented through the deaths of siblings and the deaths of both parents, events that altered the household in rapid succession. These early disruptions are visible in the records themselves and do not require interpretation to be understood.

As the chronology unfolds, the documents show that ordinary family structure did not hold. Deaths within the family, followed by Edward's placement in an orphanage at a young age, altered the course of his childhood. Contemporary records also document a serious dog attack while he was still an infant, an event that underscores how precarious his early years were. These events are not treated here as exceptional, but as the circumstances that shaped what followed.

Speculation Narrative:

12 Feb 1892 – **Born** at Armourdale, Wyandotte, Kansas. Details of evidence of birth, followed by a reference note (where you found the information). An example of a footnote reference is here.[1]

28 Feb 1892 – Baptism at St. Thomas Catholic Church. Records of Armourdale, Kansas (now a part of Kansas City, KS) are currently located at St Joseph and St. Benedict Church located at 229 S. 8th St. (913) 371-1837[2]

2 May 1892 – **Kansas City Gazette,** Kansas City "The infant child of Mr. and Mrs. James Whalen of South Fourth street, was attacked and frightfully

[1] St. Thomas Catholic Church (Armourdale, Wyandotte, Kansas) Parish Registers. Edward Whelan, born 12 February 1892. Son of James Whelan and Mary Dempsey. [Note in margin]. Provided by Fred Schreel.

[2] St. Thomas Catholic Church (Armourdale, Wyandotte, Kansas) Parish Registers. Edward Whelan, baptized 28 February 1892. [Note in margin]. Provided by Fred Schreel.

bitten by a vicious dog Saturday afternoon on the back porch of the Whalen residence. The wounds are not fatal.[3]

11 Jun 1892 – **Death of brother James Whalen (1884 - 1892)** Drowned in the Kaw River.[4]

Before 1895 – **Death of sister Jane Whalen (1882 - before 1895)**, probably at Armourdale, Wyandotte, Kansas. Jane's death record has not been found, and she is not in the 1895 KS Census[5].

22 Feb 1895 – **Death of sister Catherine Elizabeth Whalen (1878 - 1895)** at Armourdale, KS[6].

1895 – Kansas Census[7].

James Whalen, 42

Mary Whalen, 38

Patrick Whalen, 9

Mike Whalen, 5

Eddie Whalen, 3

Wm Whalen, 1

Patrick Dempster, 62

Mary Dempster, 61

Nellie Dempster, 15

Geo Smith, 28

James Irvin, 19

[3] "The South Side," The Kansas City Gazette, Kansas City, Missouri, 2 May 1892, p.3, col.5; digital image, Newspapers.com

[4] Kansas City Star, June 11, 1892 "A Victim of the Treacherous Kaw"

[5] 1985 Kansas State Census, Ward 6, Kansas City p. 10, Dwelling 1702, Family 1727, line 21, James Whalen household; digital image, "Kansas, U.S., State Census Collection, 1855 - 1925, Ancestry.

[6] Record of Mortality #1922 - Kansas City, KS Records Vol. A

[7] 1985 Kansas State Census, Ward 6, Kansas City p. 10, Dwelling 1702, Family 1727, line 21, James Whalen household; digital image, "Kansas, U.S., State Census Collection, 1855 - 1925, Ancestry.

11 Jun 1892 – **Death of brother John Whalen (1888 - 1895)**.[8]

10 May 1896 – **Death of mother Mary Ann Dempsey (1856 - 1896)**[9]

13 July 1896 – **Death of father James H. Whelan (1856 - 1896)**[10]

1896 –Edward and his brothers Patrick, Michael, and William were sent to St. Vincent's Orphanage; their older sister, Minnie, then about fifteen years old, was not. A letter describing the circumstances surrounding these events was written to their paternal aunt, Nora Whalen Mullahy, likely by members of the Dempsey family. This letter is currently in the possession of Nora Schreel[11]

1 June 1900 – U.S. Census in Leavenworth, Leavenworth, Kansas. Older brothers Patrick and Michael may have lived with their Aunt Nora Whelan Mullahy in Portsmouth, Ohio.[12]

Edward Whelan - inmate, white, male, born Nov 1892, 9, student, born in Kansas, father born in Ireland, mother born in Washington DC

William Whelan - inmate, white, male, born, 6, student, born in Kansas, father born in Ireland, mother born in Washington DC

12 May 1901 – First Communion at St. Vincent's Orphanage in Leavenworth, Kansas.[13]

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[8] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVKB-FG51: 6 March 2021), John Whalen; Burial, Kansas City, Wyandotte, Kansas, United States of America, Saint John's Cemetery; citing record ID 57699640, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com. No source, based on not being on the 1895 Kansas census

[9] Kansas City (Kansas) City Clerk, Record of Mortality, Volume A (1892 - 1903), p.71, Mrs. Whalen, died 10 May 1896.

[10] "WHALEN," obituary, The Press, Kansas City, Kansas, 17 July 1896, p. 5, col. 1; digital image, Newspapers.com.

[11]Wyandotte County (Kansas) Probate Court, Petition for Appointment of Guardian, D:264, Case Number 264[1], Minnie Whalen, et. All minors, 1896.

[12] 1900 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Delaware, Leavenworth County, Kansas, ED 83, Sheet 16, Dwelling 318, Family 318, Thena Duling household; digital image. "1900 United States Federal Census," Ancestry.

[13] St. Vincent Home, to whom it may concern, letter, dated 27 April 1945; provided by Fred Schreel.

17 May 1901 – Confirmation at St. Vincent's Orphanage in Leavenworth, Kansas [14]

19 Feb 1905 - Death of sister Mary "Minnie" Whalen (1880 - 1905) St. Louis Street, El Paso, Texas [15]

1910 - U.S. Census at Portsmouth, Ward 1, Scioto, Ohio.[16]

Nora Mullaley, head of household, female, age 57, mother 1 child, born Ireland, speaks English, no occupation, owns the home, mortgage

Patrick J Whalen, nephew, male, white, age 24, single, born in Kansas, father born in Ireland, mother born in Washington DC, speaks English, makes shoes, can read and write.

Michael Whalen, nephew, male, white, age 20, single, born in Kansas, father born in Ireland, mother born in Washington DC, speaks English, makes shoes, can read and write.

Edward Whalen, nephew, male, white, age 18, single, born in Kansas, father born in Ireland, mother born in Washington DC, speaks English, makes shoes, can read and write.

William Whalen, nephew, male, white, age 16, single, born in Kansas, father born in Ireland, mother born in Washington DC, speaks English, makes shoes, can read and write.

5 Jun 1917 - Military Word War I Draft Registration Card.[17]

"Edward Paul Whalen, white, single, born 12 February 1892 in Kansas City, Kansas. Residence date: 1917 - 1918 at 1650 3rd Ave in Huntington,

[14]St. Vincent Home, to whom it may concern, letter, dated 27 April 1945; provided by Fred Schreel.

[15] 1820 U.S. census, XXX County, State, Any Town, p. xxx (penned at upper right), line xx, Ancestor Name; image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 12 January 2026); citing National Archives microfilm publication M33, roll XX.

[16] 1830 U.S. census, XXX County, State, Any Town, p. xxx (penned at upper right), line xx, Ancestor Name; image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 12 January 2026); citing National Archives microfilm publication M19, roll XX.

[17] United States, Selective Service System, World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917 - 1918, West Virginia, Wayne, Local Board 2, Serial Number 435 or 58 [?], Edward Paul Whalen, born 12 February 1892; digital image, "U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917 - 1918," Ancestry.

Wayne, West Virginia. Traveling salesman for John Duer and Son Inc. in Baltimore, Maryland, which is crossed out and replaced by Huntington, W. VA. Slender, 6 ft 3 inches, hair black, eyes blue."

1917 - Military Ohio Soldiers in WWI, 1917 - 1918. Residence in Columbus, Franklin, Ohio.[18]

1918 - World War I Tour of Duty. Residence in Huntington, Columbus, Franklin, Ohio.[19]

1920 - U.S. Census in Huntington, Cabell, West Virginia.[20]

Michael J Whalen, head, rents, male, white, age 30, married, can read and write, born in Kansas, father born Ireland, mother born Washington DC, job

Ethel Whalen, wife, female, white, age 27, married, can read and write, born Ohio, father born Ohio, mother born Ohio.

Marjorie Whalen, daughter, female, white, age 3, can not read, can not write, born Ohio, father born Kansas, mother born Ohio.

Edward Whalen, brother, male, age 27, single, married, can read and write, born in Kansas, father born Ireland, mother born Washington DC, salesman

17 May 1924 - Marriage in Grand Rapids, Kent, Michigan to Elizabeth Louise Whalen at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church information.[21]

"Miss Bessie Roach, E.P. Whalen United In a Pretty Ceremony

[18] 1850 U.S. census, XXX County, State, population schedule, Any Town, p. xxx (stamped), dwelling XXX, family xxx, line xx, Ancestor Name; image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 12 January 2026); citing National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll XX.

[19] Ohio, Roster of Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in World War I, 1917 - 1918 (Columbus, Ohio: F.J. Heer Printing Co., 1926), p.18534: Whalen, Edward P.; digital image, "Ohio Roster of Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in World War I 1917 - 1918," Ancestry.

[20] 1920 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Ward 6, Huntington, Cabell County, West Virginia, ED 36, Sheet 11A, Dwelling 223, Family 248, Michael J. Whalen household; digital image, "1920 United States Federal Census," Ancestry.

[21] Kent County (Michigan) County Clerk, Marriages, 1868 - 1925, Number 1760, Edward Whalen and Bessie L. Roach, married 14 May 1924, in Grand Rapids; digital image, "Michigan Marriages, 1868 - 1925," Family Seach.

"A pretty wedding was solemnized Saturday morning in St. Alphonsus' church, when Miss Bessie Louise Roach of Lafayette ave., NE., and Edward P Whalen were united in marriage. Very Rev. Patrick J. Dunne performed the ceremony, with George Farrell and Thomas Roach as servers. American Beauty roses were used in the altar, and palms and Easter lilies decorated the church.

The bride was gowned in a white pin-tucked canton combined with lace and wore a hat of crepe combined with straw. She carried a bouquet of tea roses and swansonia made enshower. She was attended by her sister, Miss Frances Roach, who was gowned in pale green georgette. She wore a leghorn hat trimmed with pastel-shaded georgette. Her flowers were Ophelia roses, lavender sweet peas, and maiden's hair fern.

Miss Marjorie Whalen, a groom's niece, attended as a flower girl and wore a frock of pink georgette and a hat of the same shade. She carried a basket of sweet peas.

William Whalen attended his brother as best man. Gerald and Jerome Roach, brother of the bride, attended as ushers.

Immediately following the ceremony, breakfast was served at Robinwood ave for the immediate families. Mr. and Mrs. Whalen left for an eastern motor trip and will make their return to Chicago."

29 Nov 1925 – **Birth of son Edward Paul Whelan (1925 - 1945**) at Evanston, Cook, Illinois.[22]

24 Jan 1927 – **Birth of son William Roach Whelan (1925 - 1945)** at Evanston, Cook, Illinois.[23]

12 Jun 1928 – **Birth of son James Michael Whelan (1925 - 1945)** at Evanston, Cook, Illinois.[24]

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[22] 1900 U.S. census, XXX City, County, State, population schedule, township/city, enumeration district (ED) X, p. X (stamped or penned), p. XA or X B 9penned), dwelling xx, family xx, Ancestor Name; image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 12 January 2026); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll xxx.

[23] 1900 U.S. census, XXX City, County, State, population schedule, township/city, enumeration district (ED) X, p. X (stamped or penned), p. XA or X B 9penned), dwelling xx, family xx, Ancestor Name; image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 12 January 2026); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll xxx.

[24] 1900 U.S. census, XXX City, County, State, population schedule, township/city, enumeration district (ED) X, p. X (stamped or penned), p. XA or X B 9penned), dwelling xx, family xx, Ancestor Name; image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com : accessed 12 January 2026); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll xxx.

5 Dec 1929– **Birth of son Thomas Patrick Whelan (1925 - 1945)** at Evanston, Cook, Illinois.[25]

1930 - U.S. Census in Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[26]

Edward P Whalen, Head, rents, worth ?, has a radio, male, white, age 38, married, first at age 32, born Kansas, parents born Ireland/ Washington DC, salesman, furniture.

Bessie L Whalen - wife, female, white, age 38, married, first at age 28, born Michigan, parents born Canada/Michigan.

Edw P Whalen -son, male, white, single, age 4, born Illinois, parents born Kansas /Michigan.

Wm Roach Whalen - son, male, white, single, age 3, born Illinois, parents born Kansas /Michigan.

James M Whalen - son, male, white, single, age 1, born Illinois, parents born Kansas /Michigan.

Thomas Patrech Whalen - son, male, white, single, age 0, born Illinois, parents born Kansas /Michigan.

7 Jul 1932 – **Birth of son John Richard Whalen (1925 - 1945)** at Evanston, Cook, Illinois.[27]

17 Feb 1933 – **Death of brother William James Whalen (1894-1933).[28]**

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[25] 1900 U.S. census, XXX City, County, State, population schedule, township/city, enumeration district (ED) X, p. X (stamped or penned), p. XA or X B 9penned), dwelling xx, family xx, Ancestor Name; image, *Ancestry* (http://www.ancestry.com: accessed 12 January 2026); citing NARA microfilm publication T9, roll xxx.

[26] 1930 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, ED 16-1920, Sheet 16B, Dwelling 212, Family 342, Edward P. Whalen household; digital image, "1920 United States Federal Census," Ancestry.

[27] "Illinois, Cook County, Birth Certificates, 1871-1949", *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QV3G-6KG4: Sat Jul 06 20:55:58 UTC 2024), Entry for Whalen and Edward Paul Whalen, 27 Jul 1932.

[28] University Hospital, Baltimore, MD Film Reels: CR 48229. Certificate number E-87752

7 Jul 1932 – **Birth of daughter Mary Whalen (1925 - 1945)** at Evanston, Cook, Illinois.[29]

1940 - U.S. Census in Chicago, Cook, Illinois. Living at 342 Campbell Chicago Cook, Illinois[30]

Edward Whalen - head of household, male, white, age 45, married, 3rd grade, born Kansas, lived in the same place in 1935, worked the last week of March 1940, occupation is salesman, Industry is Furniture, worked x weeks in 1939, earned $x in 1939, did not make over $50 in other income.

Elizabeth Whalen (provided information)—wife, female, white, age 41, married, 3 years of high school, born Michigan, lived in the same place in 1935, did not work the last week of March 1940, occupation is homemaker, worked 0 weeks in 1939, made $0 in income.

Edward Whalen - son, male, white, age 14, single, 2 years of high school, born Illinois, lived in the same place in 1935, did not work the last week of March 1940, occupation is student, worked 0 weeks in 1939, made $0 in income.

William Whalen - son, male, white, age 13, single, 1 year of high school, born Illinois, lived in the same place in 1935, did not work the last week of March 1940, occupation is student, worked 0 weeks in 1939, made $0 in income.

James Whalen - son, male, white, age 11, single, 7 years of grammar school, born Illinois, lived in the same place in 1935, did not work the last week of March 1940, occupation is student, worked 0 weeks in 1939, made $0 in income.

Thomas Whalen- son, male, white, age 10, single, 6 years of grammar school, born Illinois, lived in the same place in 1935, did not work the last week of March 1940, occupation is student, worked 0 weeks in 1939, made $0 in income.

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[29] "Illinois, Cook County, Birth Certificates, 1871-1949", *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVPC-Q4L5: Mon Jul 22 20:04:01 UTC 2024), Entry for and Edward Paul Whalen, 4 Nov 1935.

[30] 1940 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, ED 103 - 3260, Sheet 12A, Dwelling344, Edward Whalen household; digital image, "1940 United States Federal Census," Ancestry.

John R Whalen - son, male, white, age 7, single, 2 years of grammar school, born Illinois, lived in the same place in 1935, did not work the last week of March 1940, occupation is student, worked 0 weeks in 1939, made $0 in income.

Mary Whalen- daughter, female, white, age 4, single, 0 years school, born Illinois, lived in the same place in 1935, did not work the last week of March 1940, worked 0 weeks in 1939, made $0 in income.

1942 - Military Word War II Draft Registration Card at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[31]

26 May 1945 – **Death of son Edward Paul Whalen (1929- 1945)** over Yokohama, Japan.[32]

Edward Whalen's oldest son, Edward Paul Whalen, was killed during World War II in late May 1945 while serving in the Pacific Theater. Family accounts shared by Edward's daughter, Mary, state that the first notification received by the family listed him as missing in action.

Mary recalled that after the war, Edward and his wife received a letter said to have been written by the pilot and co-pilot of the aircraft on which their son was serving. That letter did not survive, and no copy has been located. According to Mary's recollection, the letter explained that the plane was shot down during a bombing raid near Yokohama, Japan. She said the pilot and co-pilot called out to Edward Paul and other servicemen as they parachuted from the aircraft, but Edward Paul did not respond. The pilot and co-pilot were captured and spent approximately three months as prisoners of war. They did not see Edward again.

Details of Edward Paul's specific role on the aircraft are uncertain. Mary recalled that he may have served as a gunner or a navigator.

Mary recalled that after the burial of the empty casket, as the family was leaving the cemetery by car, her father broke down and cried. She said it

[31] United States, Selective Service System, Selective Service Registration Cards, World War II, Illinois, Cook County, Local Board [61], Serial Number U2341, Edward Paul Whalen, born 12 February 1892; digital image, "U.S., World War II Draft Registration Cards, 1942," Ancestry.

[32] "Illinois, Archdiocese of Chicago, Cemetery Records, 1864-1989", , *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:Q2HN-NRSF: Sun Mar 10 03:20:57 UTC 2024), Entry for Edward P Whalen, 15 Dec 1949.

was the only time she ever saw him react that way, and that even years later she found it difficult to put into words how deeply he was affected.

Records indicate that a number of servicemen killed during bombing raids in that area were first buried in a grave in Japan and then reburied in a common grave at Louisville, Kentucky, after the war. At the time, the identification of remains was impossible. If the family requested, the serviceman's name is on the grave in Louisville.

Edward Paul Whalen was instead memorialized with an empty casket burial in the Whalen family lot near Chicago.

I regret that I did not have the opportunity to ask his brothers about the nineteen-year-old serviceman who was killed over Japan in the final months of the war.

Surviving records may clarify the circumstances of Edward Paul Whalen's death, and further research is warranted. Requests for military records and careful documentation of what can be established today—both about Edward Paul and the other servicemen involved—are necessary to preserve what remains knowable about the events of that day.

1947 — Employment, Chicago, Illinois.

"Edward P. Whalen worked for many years as a furniture salesman in downtown Chicago at the Furniture Mart—the only building with a blue roof. His son, James M. Whalen, worked with him from approximately 1947 to 1972, when James left the furniture business to become an alcoholism counselor."[33]

1950 - U.S. Census in Chicago, Cook, Illinois. Living at 342 Campbell Chicago Cook, Illinois[34]

[33] Note from Michael Whalen, son of James Whalen

[34] 1950 U.S. Federal Census (Population Schedule), Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, ED 103 - 5012, Sheet 73, Dwelling 31, Edward P. Whalen household; digital image, "1950 United States Federal Census, " Ancestry.

Edward P Whalen - head, white, male, 57, married, born Kansas, worked last week as a furniture salesman.

Elizabeth L Whalen, wife, white, female, 40, married, born Michigan, Home

James M Whalen - son, white, male, 20, never married, born Illinois.

John R Whalen - son, white, male, 20, never married, born Illinois.

Mary Whalen - daughter, white, female, 15, never married, born Illinois.

2 Jan 1957 – **Death of brother Michael James Whalen (1894- 1933)** at Wapakoneta, Auglaize, Ohio**.**[35]

11 Nov 1960 – **Death** at St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, Cook, Illinois. His home address was 6025 Maplewood in Chicago**.**[36]

Cause of death - nephrotic?

This story was shared with me by Edward's daughter Mary, who at the time was a working adult living at home with her parents. After the death of her brother, Elizabeth Whalen's health declined. Mary recalled that, like many parents who never recovered a body, her mother continued to wonder whether her son might still be alive, possibly held in Japan or unable to remember who he was.

In November 1960, Elizabeth was admitted to the hospital for medical reasons that are no longer known. While she was hospitalized, Edward Whalen suffered a stroke at home. According to Mary, he remained there until their son Tom returned and was able to get him help, after which Edward was admitted to the same hospital. Mary later said it deeply affected her that her father did not ask for her assistance, and she wondered whether embarrassment may have played a role.

Out of concern for her health, the children decided not to tell their mother that Edward had also been hospitalized. The following day, Elizabeth somehow made her way to Edward's hospital room. How she found him is not known. When their children entered the room, they found their mother sitting at his bedside, talking to him.

35

36 Illinois, Department of Public Health, Death Certificate, Certificate 51489 (19160), Edward P. Whalen, died 11 November 1960, in Evanston, Cook County.

"Whalen - Edward P. Whalen, Nov. 11; beloved husband of Elizabeth, nee Roach; fond father of William, James Thomas, John, Mary, and the late Edward P. Jr.; grandfather of 12.

At funeral home, 6216 N. Clark street, after 7 p.m. Saturday. The funeral is Monday morning at 9:30. Services in St. Henry church at 10. Interment All Saint cemetery."[37]

Nov 1960 – **Burial** at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines, Cook, Illinois.[38]

[37] Edward P Whalen, Chicago Tribune, Newspapers.com

[38] "Find a Grave Index," database, *FamilySearch* (https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QVVV-675K: 12 March 2024), Edward Paul Whalen, ; Burial, Des Plaines, Cook, Illinois, United States of America, All Saints Catholic Cemetery and Mausoleum; citing record ID 23359828, *Find a Grave*, http://www.findagrave.com.